



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 7257

January Session, 2019



AN ACT CONCERNING FOOD-INSECURE STUDENTS AT PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1 Section 1. (*Effective July 1, 2019*) (a) As used in this section:
- 2 (1) "Food insecurity" means the lack of available financial resources
3 needed to consistently access enough food for an active and healthy
4 life; and
- 5 (2) "Food pantry" means a site at which an organization distributes
6 food, at no charge, directly to persons in need.
- 7 (b) The Board of Trustees of The University of Connecticut and the
8 Board of Regents for Higher Education shall each study the policies
9 impacting and data regarding students experiencing food insecurity at
10 the public institutions of higher education under each board's
11 jurisdiction. For the purposes of the study, each said board shall
12 document (1) during the month of October 2019, and, at the board's
13 discretion, any additional month in 2019, (A) the number of students
14 who reported experiencing food insecurity or attempted to access
15 benefits offered by an institution under the board's jurisdiction to
16 students experiencing food insecurity, and (B) if an institution under
17 the board's jurisdiction operates a food pantry, the number of students
18 served by the food pantry and the number of pounds of food the

19 institution distributed, and (2) during the fiscal year ending June 30,
20 2019, if an institution under the board's jurisdiction offers emergency
21 grants to students experiencing financial hardship, (A) the number of
22 students who applied for such grants and total dollar amount for
23 which such students applied, and (B) the number of students who
24 received grants and the total dollar amount of grants distributed.

25 (c) Not later than January 1, 2020, each said board shall submit a
26 report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general
27 statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly
28 having cognizance of matters relating to higher education regarding
29 the findings of the study and, for every institution under the board's
30 jurisdiction, such report shall include a description of (1) policies that
31 impact a student's access to food, including, but not limited to, policies
32 regarding the suspension of meal plans as a result of unpaid tuition or
33 the operating hours of on-campus dining facilities during holiday or
34 vacation periods, and (2) programs that provide benefits to students
35 experiencing food insecurity, detailing how such programs or benefits
36 operate, including, but not limited to, a description of how students
37 access benefits, how the benefits are distributed or awarded, how the
38 programs are funded and whether the benefits offered are sufficient to
39 meet the needs of all students at the institution experiencing food
40 insecurity.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2019	New section

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 1(b), "and at the board's discretion, any additional month in 2019," was added for clarity and in Section 1(c), the last sentence was deleted for clarity.

HED *Joint Favorable Subst.*